

## NOTARIAL SERVICES IN GUATEMALA 2010

U.S. consular officers may perform notarial services similar to those performed by a notary public in the United States. Such services include taking acknowledgments of signatures on documents for use in the U.S., taking affidavits and protests of negotiable papers, taking depositions, and certifying true copies. In addition, U.S. consular officers may authenticate the signatures of Guatemalan officials and professionals certain (such as doctors, veterinarians, and sworn translators) who are registered with the Consular Section. As explained below, a Guatemalan Consulate in the United States must notarize the signatures of U.S. officials that need to be authenticated for use in Guatemala.

Authentications of Guatemalan signatories cost \$50, acknowledgments of signatures and oaths cost \$50 each, and true copies cost \$50 each. Fees must be paid in cash in either dollars or the Quetzales equivalent. Bring the original document and identification (passport or ID) to the American Citizens' Services Section, window #1, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Authentications of signatures will be ready the same business day at 2:30 p.m. All other notarial services are done while you wait.

## Notarial Services and Guatemalan Consulates in the United States

Guatemala has an Embassy in Washington, D.C., and has Consulates in Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Miami, New York, San Francisco, and other cities across the USA. Americans who need U.S. documents (such as birth, marriage, divorce or death certificates, police certificates/reports, etc.) notarized by a Guatemalan Consulate in the United States should directly contact the Consulate closest to their home in the United States. Once the Guatemalan Consulate has notarized the U.S. document, the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry in Guatemala City must authenticate the

signature of the Guatemalan consular officer for the document to be legally valid in Guatemala.

U.S. court documents must be triple certified to be valid in Guatemala. The chain of authentication is as follows: the judge signs the document(s); the clerk of the court certifies the judge's signature; and a Guatemalan consulate legalizes (authenticates) the signature of the clerk.

## Official Guatemalan Consular Offices in the United States

<u>Washington, DC</u> Embassy of Guatemala 2220 R Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20008 (202) 745-4952 to 54 Fax: (202) 745-1908

Houston, TX Consulate General 3013 Fountain View, Suite 230 Houston, TX 77057 (713) 953-9531

Los Angeles, CA
Consulate General
3540 Wilshire Blvd
Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 365-9251/52

Chicago, IL
Consulate General
200 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 2350
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 540-0781 Fax: (312) 540-0897

Miami, FL Consulate General 1101 Brickell Ave, Suite 1003-S Miami, FL 33131 (305) 679-9945

New York, NY
Consulate General
57 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(212) 686-3837

San Francisco, CA
Consulate General
785 Market Street
Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 896-9181